

2013 SHAD AND STRIPER FISHING REPORT

COASTAL RIVERS

Week of April 22nd through April 28th

NEUSE RIVER

Upper Region (Raleigh to Smithfield)

Fishing Activity: Anglers are still landing good catches of white shad. No striped bass were observed during the report period; however, several anglers reported that a few striped bass were taken in the upper zone of the Neuse River.

Central Region (Maple Cyprus to Seven Springs, Goldsboro Area)

Fishing Activity: Fishing picked up last week. A few anglers fishing Contentnea Creek yesterday caught a bunch of largemouth, with most being undersized. A good number of sunfish were caught as well. A couple of people fishing from the dock Sunday evening at the Highway 70 ramp in Kinston got into a small school of 10- to 12-inch stripers. There were a few catfish here and there, also. Most of the anadromous species (fish that live in saltwater and spawn in freshwater) have moved upstream and spawned or are spawning. "Back-runners" (fish that have spawned and are moving back to the Atlantic Ocean) will be showing up in catches any day now.

Lower Region (Turkey Quarter to New Bern)

Fishing Activity: The shad and striped bass fishing are over in the lower zone (New Bern area) until after the fish spawn. There were a few speckled trout reported. Overall, fishing effort and catch were down compared to last week.

TAR /PAMLICO RIVER

Upper Region (Greenville to Rocky Mount)

Fishing Activity: Fishing effort for shad and striped bass in the upper zone of the Tar/Pamlico River fell off during the week. Most of the anglers interviewed were targeting catfish and sunfishes.

Lower Region (Greenville to Washington)

Fishing Activity: Anglers reported good catches of stripers in the Tar River, but most were undersized. They also reported a significant number of hybrid striped bass mixed in the catch. Speckled trout fishing slowed up a bit last week with most of the effort in the creeks (Bath, Durham's, Blount's and North Creek). The biggest fishing news in this area continues to be the speckled trout fishing. The hotspots include Broad Creek, Goose Creek, Durham Creek and Blount's Creek. Fishing effort was relatively high during the report period.

CAPE FEAR

Fishing Activity: The Cape Fear River continued to be the best white shad fishing location in North Carolina. Lock and Dam No. 3 is producing the majority of the white shad harvest on the Cape Fear. Good catches are still occurring at Lock and Dam No. 2. Anglers interviewed on the Cape Fear River also reported good catches of catfish, and a few striped bass were reported by anglers fishing near Lock and Dam No. 2.